

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5763

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2537

FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FAO, GOI

SUBJECT: BEHAVIOR OF GUINEAN ALTERNATE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO JEAN CAMARA

REF: (A) 75 ROME 17956 (B) CONAKRY 1970

SUMMARY. FURTHER ANSWER TO EMBASSY CONAKRY QUESTION REFTEL (B) ABOUT CAMARA'S BEHAVIOR IS THAT HE HAS MODERATED HIS BEHAVIOR TO A DEGREE, BUT WE BELIEVE THIS HAS BEEN FORCED UPON HIM BY LACK OF SUPPORT FROM GROUP OF 77 FOR HIS RADICAL POLITICAL POSITION. HE IS STILL DIFFICULT, BUT HAS BEEN BOXED IN. HE PROBABLY WILL ALWAYS REMAIN RADICAL RABBLE-ROUSER. THERE WOULD BE LITTLE REAL GAIN, HOWEVER, IN PRESSING FURTHER COMPLAINTS AGAINST HIM - THOUGH THEY WOULD BE MERITED IN PRINCIPLE - OR IN TRYING TO GET HIM REPLACED. HIS CHARISMA HAS WORN THIN AND HE CAN BE HANDLED HERE. END SUMMARY.

1. POINT OF BEGINNING SHOULD BE FAO CONFERENCE OF NOVEMBER 1975, AT WHICH TIME EMBASSY CONAKRY NOTED OUR REPORT (REFTEL C) THAT CAMERA HAD ALLEGED COLLUSION BETWEEN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM AND AMERICANS IN TRYING TO DOMINATE UN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES. IN THAT VERY CONFERENCE, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO JEAN CAMARA

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REPRESENTATIVES IN RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE AND IN 2ND COMMISSION

SUCCEEDED IN PUTTING CAMARA IN UNUSUAL MINORITY POSITION IN HIS SUPPORT OF PLO AND CHASTISEMENT OF CHILE. HIS BLUSTERING AND THAT OF HIS ASSOCIATE CHEICK FOFANA, THREATENING TO ISSUE PRESS RELEASES DENOUNCING OTHER DELEGATIONS, ANTAGONIZED GROUP 77 COUNTRIES WHO OPPOSED HIM ON THOSE ISSUES. SLIGHTLY EARLIER HE HAD ANTAGONIZED LATIN AMERICANS AND SOME OTHERS BY PUSHING EXTREMELY HARD FOR SOLID GROUP-77 BACKING OF EDOUARD SAOUMA AS THEIR ONLY CANDIDATE.

2. NEXT CONFERENCE CONTEST WAS IN WORLD FOOD COUNCIL CONFERENCES IN JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1976 ON RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, AND ON INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. NEW FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA MADE POWER-PLAY BEFOREHAND, PRESENTING PROPOSALS TO GROUP 77 THAT WOULD HAVE SUBORDINATED WORLD FOOD COUNCIL TO FAO AND GIVEN FAO PREDOMINANT ROLE IN FUND. CAMARA TRIED HARD TO PUT THESE PROPOSALS ACROSS IN GROUP 77 WORKING GROUPS FOR BOTH CONFERENCES, BOTH OF WHICH WORKING GROUPS HE CHAIRED PERSONALLY. HE FAILED HEAVILY IN BOTH EFFORTS.

3. IN RULES OF PROCEDURE GROUP 77 WORKING GROUP MEETING, CAMARA WAS ALONE, WITH HALF-HEARTED SUPPORT OF TWO OTHERS. GREAT MAJORITY OF GROUP 77 TOLD HIM THEY WOULD HAVE NONE OF FAO EFFORT TO TAKE OVER WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. CAMARA PERSISTED AND PRESSED TO DEGREE IN SESSION OF CONFERENCE ON RULES OF PROCEDURE, BUT YUGOSLAV AND OTHER MODERATES TOOK LEADERSHIP OF GROUP 77 PARTICIPANTS, MEXICAN CHAIRMAN DID NOT GIVE WAY TO CAMARA, AND MEETING ENDED WITH COMPROMISE GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE TO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

4. IN FUND CONFERENCE, CAMARA BEGAN TO MODERATE HIS ATTITUDE. HE AND LIBYA PRESSED SUCCESSFULLY TO BE INCLUDED IN CONTACT GROUP IN WHICH ALL REAL BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED. CAMARA CONDUCTED HIMSELF WITH RESERVE, GIVING WAY TO ONLY ONE SEMI-RELEVANT OUTBURST ABOUT HOW IT WAS ONLY FAIR THAT RESOURCES TAKEN FROM LDC'S WOULD BE RETURNED TO THEM IN FUND OPERATIONS. CENTRAL CONSIDERATION IN CONFERENCE WAS OPEC ROLE, AND SHIHATA OF KUWAIT ON THAT BASIS GAINED ROLE OF PRINCIPAL GROUP-77 SPOKESMAN AND COORDINATOR, WITH CAMARA BEING FORCED TO SUPPORT HIM. CLOSING MINUTES OF CONFERENCE FOUND THREE LATIN

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AMERICAN COUNTRIES PICKING AT ONE MINOR ASPECT OF ELABORATE PACKAGE DEAL COMPROMISE, AND CAMARA OPPOSING THEM AND CALLING ON ALL TO RESPECT COMPROMISE AGREEMENTS THAT HAD BEEN MADE, IN WHICH EVERYONE HAD TO GIVE A LITTLE. THIS WAS INCUMBANT UPON HIM, AS CHAIRMAN OF GROUP 77, BUT HE DID IT WELL. SHORTLY EARLIER, HE HAD MADE SPEECH FOR RECORD ASSERTING GROUP-77'S CONTINUED ADHERENCE TO PRINCIPLE OF ONE-COUNTRY-ONE-VOTE. HE PREFACED THIS STATEMENT BY CLEAR INDICATION THAT THEY (G-77)

DID NOT NEGATE THE DRAFT AGREEMENT ON FUND (IN WHICH OPEC AS WELL AS OECD/DAC COUNTRIES DECIDED TO USE WEIGHTED VOTING).

5. WE ARE AWAITING ELECTION SOON OF NEW CHAIRMAN OF GROUP 77. IT WOULD BE NICE IF HE WERE MODERATE, BUT SOMEHOW GROUP-77 ALWAYS SEEMS TO LEAN TOWARD RADICALS AS CHAIRMEN. CAMARA'S ORATORICAL FLAIR WILL NONETHELESS KEEP IN PUBLIC EYE. HE WILL NEVER BE FRIENDLY TO UNITED STATES, WE BELIEVE, BECAUSE HIS STYLE OF POLITICS FEEDS ON RACIAL CRITICISM OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. HIS CONTINUED PRESENCE HERE IS ALMOST WELCOME, HOWEVER, BECAUSE AS LONG AS HE IS IN PUBLIC EYE AMONG RADICAL ELEMENTS OF GROUP 77, IT WILL REMIND OTHER GROUP-77 REPRESENTATIVES THAT THEY DO NOT ALWAYS HAVE TO ACCEPT DOMINATION OF GROUP-77 BY RADICAL LEADERS.

6. NOTE: IN CHECKING ON CAMARA FOR THIS REPORT, WE NOTED AND CONFIRMED WITH FAO THAT FOR SOME REASON CAMARA HAS NEVER BEEN LISTED AS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, OR ALTERNATE, TO FAO. GUINEAN AMBASSADOR SEYDOU KEITA IS LISTED AS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, AND THERE IS NO ALTERNATE LISTED. JEAN S. CAMARA LISTS HIMSELF IN CONFERENCES AS COUNSELOR. ANOTHER CAMARA, MAMADOOBA, IS LISTED AS COMMERCIAL ATTACHE. VOLPE

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